



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Ashby III et al.

Serial No. 09/747,274

Filed: December 21, 2000

For: APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD  
FOR RECORDING AND/OR  
RETRIEVING AUDIO INFORMATION

§ Group Art Unit: 2654  
§ Examiner: T. Smits

§ Atty. Dkt. No. 5007-00700

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on the date indicated below:

December 12, 2003  
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with information retrieved from the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office website, the captioned application has been allowed. A Notice of Allowance, however, has not yet been mailed according to Examiners Susan McFadden and Dwayne Bost. In a discussion via telephone with Ms. McFadden and Mr. Bost on November 20, 2003, it was determined that this Amendment After Allowance is necessary to cure certain informalities before the Notice of Allowance can be mailed.

According to MPEP 1453, as confirmed by Mr. Bost, the prior Amendment after Final Rejection mailed to the Patent Office on June 17, 2003 ("Prior Amendment"), was inaccurate as to form. Therefore, this amendment is necessary to correct those inaccuracies. In the Prior Amendment, claims 5, 12, 18, 24, 29, and 35 were amended. Those claims are considered "new claims" in that they were previously presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed December 21, 2000. Thus, when new claims are amended, the entire claim must be underlined and not just the amended portion(s). Accordingly, in order to fully

comply with MPEP 1453, the following claims 5, 12, 18, 24, 29, and 35 containing the amendatory material, are completely underlined to indicate their “new” status when compared to the original, issued patent.

5. An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;  
a memory medium storing the vocal message prerecorded as telephone quality voice input; and  
a playback terminal linked by a transmissive path to the memory medium, wherein the playback  
terminal is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the vocal message from the memory medium  
upon receiving from a bar code reader a bar code signal corresponding to the vocal  
message, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable  
to a product, and wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic  
associated with the product.

12. A method for providing product information, said method comprising:

recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;  
receiving a bar code signal from a bar code reader, wherein the bar code signal results from  
scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product; and  
retrieving the prerecorded vocal message corresponding to the bar code signal from a memory  
medium, wherein the vocal message is prerecorded as telephone quality voice input, and  
wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with  
the product.

18. An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as non-synthesized audio signal;  
a memory medium storing the prerecorded, non-synthesized audio signal; and  
a playback terminal linked by a transmissive path to the memory medium, wherein the playback  
terminal is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the audio signal from the memory medium  
upon receiving from a bar code reader a bar code signal corresponding to the audio

signal, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product, and wherein the audio signal is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.

24. A method for providing product information, said method comprising:
- recording a vocal message as non-synthesized audio signal;
- receiving a bar code signal from a bar code reader, wherein the bar code signal results from scanning of a bar code label attachable to a product; and
- retrieving the prerecorded, non-synthesized audio signal corresponding to the bar code signal from a memory medium, wherein the audio signal is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product.
29. An instructional apparatus, comprising:
- a bar code reader operable to scan a bar code label attachable to a product and produce a corresponding bar code signal;
- a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as telephone quality voice input;
- a listening station comprising a speaker and coupled to the bar code reader, wherein the listening station is adapted to receive the bar code signal from the bar code reader, to receive the vocal message corresponding to the bar code signal, and to reproduce and vocalize the vocal message, wherein the vocal message is prerecorded as telephone quality voice input, and wherein the vocal message is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product; and
- a retrieval system remotely coupled to the listening station, wherein the retrieval system comprises a memory medium storing the vocal message, and wherein the retrieval system is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the vocal message from the memory medium and transmit the vocal message to the listening station.

35. An instructional apparatus, comprising:

a bar code reader operable to scan a bar code label attachable to a product and produce a corresponding bar code signal;

a voice recorder capable of recording a vocal message as non-synthesized audio signal

a listening station comprising a speaker and coupled to the bar code reader, wherein the listening station is adapted to receive the bar code signal from the bar code reader, to receive the non-synthesized prerecorded audio signal corresponding to the bar code signal, and to reproduce and make audible the audio signal, wherein the audio signal is indicative of an identifiable characteristic associated with the product; and

a retrieval system remotely coupled to the listening station, wherein the retrieval system comprises a memory medium storing the audio signal, and wherein the retrieval system is adapted to reproducibly retrieve the audio signal from the memory medium and transmit the audio signal to the listening station.

### **CONCLUSION**

This response is believed to comply with the requirements of amendments made to new claims in a reissue application. All other new claims remain as originally submitted in the Preliminary Amendment filed December 21, 2000. Applicants believe that a Notice of Allowance should now be mailed for claims 1-39. If the Examiner has any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5007-00700.

Respectfully submitted,



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